

Jackson is one of 137 winners of this very prestigious award, selected nationally by a 32 member commission. It is comprised of leaders in education, medicine, law, social services and government, and they select the scholars. The scholars are selected based on their academic skills, on their community service, and, of course on their leadership skills.

In a time when there are budget cuts that are cutting across our education system and when our schools, especially in my home State, are suffering, it is refreshing to see that both students and teachers are dedicated to academic excellence.

I am very proud of Jackson for his hard work and for being selected as a Presidential Scholar for 2003. He reminds us that with determination and with dedication, anything is possible.

INVESTIGATING REASONS FOR GOING TO WAR

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the Committee on International Relations is at this very moment reviewing a resolution of inquiry submitted by me and cosponsored by 36 Members of the House of Representatives asking for the administration to provide whatever evidence to this Congress that caused them to send this country on a path towards war against Iraq.

The American people have a right to know why their sons and daughters were sent to war. They have a right to know whether or not this administration provided the American public with information that was false.

We need to know on what basis did the American people learn from this administration that there was an imminent threat, and, in fact, was there an imminent threat coming from Iraq, did Iraq have weapons of mass destruction that posed an imminent threat.

It is up to the Committee on International Relations of the House to provide the American people with an opportunity to get that information from this administration. This Congress exists to provide a balance to administrative power, and it is time that this Congress stood up to its responsibility. The people have a right to know, was there an imminent threat and where are the weapons of mass destruction.

□ 1215

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken later today.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH BULLDOGS FOR WINNING THE NCAA 2003 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 171) commending the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 171

Whereas on Sunday, March 23, 2003, the two-time defending NCAA National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey champion, the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs, won the National Championship for the third straight year;

Whereas Minnesota Duluth defeated Harvard University in double overtime of the championship game by the score of 4-3, having defeated Dartmouth College 5-2 in the semifinal;

Whereas sophomore Nora Tallus scored the game-winning goal in the second overtime, assisted by Erika Holst and Joanne Eustace;

Whereas during the 2002-2003 season, the Bulldogs won an impressive 31 games, while losing only 3 and tying 2;

Whereas forwards Jenny Potter, Hanne Sikio, and Caroline Ouellette were selected to the 2003 All-Tournament team and Caroline Ouellette was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player;

Whereas the Bulldogs are the only team in the country to earn a berth in the women's national championship tournament in each year of its existence;

Whereas junior forward Jenny Potter was one of three finalists for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, given annually to the most outstanding player in women's collegiate varsity ice hockey and was named to the Jofa Women's University Division Ice Hockey All-American First Team;

Whereas senior forward Maria Rooth, for the fourth time, was one of ten finalists for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, and was named to the Jofa Women's University Division Ice Hockey All-American Second Team;

Whereas Minnesota Duluth Head Coach Shannon Miller, after winning the National Championship in three consecutive years, has been named a finalist for the American Hockey Coaches Association 2002-2003 University Division Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year Award; and

Whereas all of the team's players showed tremendous dedication throughout the season toward the goal of winning the National Championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and support staff and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored;

(3) requests that the President recognize the achievements of the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team and invite them to the White House for an appropriate ceremony honoring a national championship team; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled cop-

ies of this resolution to the University of Minnesota Duluth for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each coach and member of the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 171.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 171; and I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), for bringing this resolution forward.

Madam Speaker, this resolution recognizes the achievement of the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team, the Bulldogs, for their NCAA National Collegiate championship. This victory marks the third consecutive national championship for the Bulldogs.

The national champion Bulldogs deserve recognition for their double overtime victory against a talented Harvard University team. In addition to the inspiring team victory, four individuals distinguished themselves from the field: three young women from the University of Minnesota of Duluth were named to the All-Tournament team, and Coach Shannon Miller was named the 2003 AHCA Women's Division Coach of the Year. The distinction earned by these individuals and the remarkable repeat victories of the team reflect the dedication of each player, the leadership of Coach Shannon Miller, and the support of family, friends, and fans.

I extend my congratulations to each of the hard-working players on the successful Bulldog team, to Coach Miller, and to the University of Minnesota Duluth. I am happy to join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishment of this team and wish them continued success. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to support House Resolution 171, commending the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.

I also too want to congratulate Bulldog Coach Shannon Miller for being

named the 2003 American Hockey Coach's Association Women's University Division Coach of the Year. We are all proud of the extraordinary accomplishment of these women.

The March 23 triumph of the UMD Bulldogs over Harvard has been referred to as the greatest game in the history of college women's hockey, played before a record-breaking crowd of over 5,000, double overtime, 4 to 3, in order to defeat the Harvard team. This gave the Bulldogs their third consecutive national championship. In only the fourth season of their existence, the Bulldogs have brought the sport of women's hockey to a new and exciting level.

The success that this team has achieved over the past few years has helped to fuel a women's hockey explosion in Minnesota and across the country. Twenty-nine colleges now sponsor Division I teams, and the NCAA is considering expanding its field in 2005. In Minnesota, the number of high school women's hockey teams has rocketed from 24 in 1995 to 128 today. Nationwide, the number of girls and women playing ice hockey has increased more than four-fold in this last decade, with more than 39,000 registered females playing hockey today.

The success of the Bulldogs and the ever-growing opportunities for women in sports remind us of the importance of title IX, the landmark legislation that banned sex discrimination in schools. It passed over 30 years ago. Title IX has kicked open the door for women and girls in athletics and education, and since the passage of title IX, girls and women have gone from hoping for a team to hoping to make the team.

Unfortunately, there are still some who would like to turn back the clock and see this law weakened. But as women continue to make strides towards equal opportunity, title IX must remain strong. We must uphold the progress we have made and continue to expand the opportunities for our daughters, granddaughters, and nieces for the next generation and beyond. Every girl and young woman must be given a chance to one day become a national champion.

Once again, I congratulate the UMD Lady Bulldogs on their remarkable achievements.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), for yielding me this time to speak about the University of Minnesota Duluth's women's hockey team. I do not know if people realize how important hockey is to us in Minnesota. It is a great sport. The people of particularly northern Minnesota have a proud tradition of hockey from the youth on up, and this is an example of how they are continuing that tradition.

Madam Speaker, this is the third consecutive championship, as we have spoken about several times. But how often does that happen? And that speaks to the great program that they have up there. It has already been talked about, the dramatic win, defeating Harvard 4 to 3 in double overtime. Any opportunity a team from Minnesota has to beat Harvard is a great opportunity, and it shows the competitiveness there is across the country.

The three Bulldog players named to the All-Tournament team and Coach Shannon Miller being named the AHCA Coach of the Year also merits additional pride. The coach has the highest winning percentage among the NCAA women's coaches.

While the Bulldogs shine on the ice, I think it is important to point out that they also shine in the classroom. Seven of the players from the championship team were named to the WCHA All-Academic team, so we continue to value education as well in Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, this team embodies the spirit of student athletes and our great ambassadors for the importance of sports and education for the State of Minnesota. I am honored to join them today in congratulating them on continuing the proud tradition of Minnesota hockey.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Once again, congratulations to the University of Minnesota Duluth Lady Bulldogs. I know the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), and, of course, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), who represents the University of Duluth here in Washington, D.C., could not be more proud.

I have to say this was truly exciting to get to do this, Madam Speaker, because when I was a young girl trying to learn how to ice skate, hockey was not available for us; and it certainly was not available to participate on a team and even think about winning a championship. So congratulations, Lady Bulldogs.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, just to associate myself with the remarks of my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), in saying that the women in Minnesota have confirmed what we always knew, that Minnesota is the ice hockey headquarters of the world, and we are proud to associate ourselves with them and congratulate the team.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, the University of Minnesota—Duluth women's hockey team achieved something truly extraordinary in the history of collegiate athletics in winning the NCAA hockey championship for the third year con-

secutively. It is a great tribute to the skill and stamina and determination of the women who have devoted themselves to this team and to each other and displayed an extraordinary kind of cooperative spirit that is characteristic of college athletics. It is notable that the report in the Duluth News Tribune on the championship game was written by a female reporter, and I will include the report on the game, the championship game, for the RECORD at this time.

[From the Duluth (MN) News Tribune, Mar. 24, 2003]

BULLDOG WOMEN CLAIM THIRD TITLE (By Christa Lawler)

The forgotten game puck was tucked in the back of the net while the Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team celebrated its third consecutive NCAA Frozen Four title.

While streamers and confetti dropped from the rafters of the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, University of Minnesota Duluth goalie Shannon Kasperek crawled to the back of the goal to retrieve the pesky puck that, for one overtime and more than four minutes, refused to settle anywhere.

UMD beat Harvard 4-3 Sunday night when Bulldog sophomore forward Nora Tallus, wide open, took a few strides and sent the puck low past the Crimson's goalie Jessica Ruddock, who had skated out to meet her. The game lasted 84 minutes—the longest in the history of the women's NCAA-sanctioned event.

There were 5,167 fans at the game, largely pro-Bulldogs. There were quite a few Harvard supporters and some who said they just wanted to see a great game.

"It couldn't have been better for women's hockey," UMD fourth-year coach Shannon Miller said. "I talked to (Harvard coach) Katey Stone before the game. I gave her a little hug and said 'Let's put on a show. Raise the bar for women's hockey.'"

The Bulldogs won the tournament in Durham, N.H., last year with a 3-2 win over Brown. The previous year, they beat St. Lawrence 4-2 in Minneapolis. No other team in the country has ever owned the NCAA women's Frozen Four title.

Tallus, a slight, Finnish player, was mobbed by her teammates, who created a mound of maroon on the ice on top of her. It was Tallus' eight goal of the season, and followed her game-high four penalties earlier in the game.

[From the Duluth News Tribune, Mar. 24, 2003]

BULLDOGS PREVAIL IN DOUBLE-OVERTIME OVER HARVARD, WIN THIRD STRAIGHT NCAA TITLE

(By Christa Lawler)

Nora Tallus repayed her debt to her teammates in full.

The Minnesota Duluth sophomore forward had all the time in the world when she skated off the boards in the second overtime of Sunday's national championship game. She took a few strides and sent the puck low, past Harvard goalie Jessica Ruddock and off the inside of the pipe, giving the Bulldogs their third consecutive NCAA Frozen Four title with a 4-3 victory.

Perhaps the greatest game in the history of women's college hockey came on the Bulldogs' home ice at the DECC in front of 5,167 fans—the largest attendance in three years of the NCAA-sanctioned event.

The game hung tied at 3-3 through one 20-minute overtime period. The ice was resurfaced and Tallus fired the game-winner at 4:19 of the second overtime to bring an end to

the longest game in the history of the women's Frozen Four.

Tallus, a small and seemingly shy player, earned four penalties—including two roughing calls—before she became the hero of the game. While Harvard did not capitalize on any of her two-minute hiatuses to the box, playing shorthanded was a dangerous proposition against the Crimson's 32.2 power-play percentage, the best in the nation.

Still, Tallus was not on her coach's bad side.

"She is a . . . angel," UMD fourth-year coach Shannon Miller said. "You could never get mad at her. After she took three penalties, I leaned down, gave her a hug and I said, 'You now owe us a goal, you understand that?'"

Tallus must have understood. The goal was just her eighth of the season.

"Yeah, I owed that for the team," Tallus said "Big Time."

Even Harvard coach Katey Stone had kudos for the goal that closed the game.

"It was an absolutely perfect shot," she said.

Hanne Sikio scored two goals for the Bulldogs and Caroline Ouellette also scored. Senior goalie Patricia Sautter had 41 saves. Harvard's Jennifer Botterill, Lauren McCauliffe and Nicole Corriero scored consecutive second-period goals, and goalie Jessica Ruddock had 37 saves.

Ouellette, a sophomore forward, opened the game with a goal at 5:17 of the first period. Jenny Potter tipped the puck to the Canadian National Team player, who was coming in quickly on the other side of the ice. Ouellette nicked a piece of the puck, redirecting to score just seconds after Harvard had returned to equal strength.

Sikio gave the Bulldogs a 2-0 advantage at 12:30 when she broke away, wound up slowly and laid the puck in the back of the net.

Harvard responded with two goals in 23 seconds in the first minute of the second period.

Botterill skated in on Sautter's right side and scored at 21 seconds. McCauliffe backhanded the puck at 44 seconds to tie the game 2-2.

Corriero gave the Crimson a brief lead when she kicked the puck off her skates and to her stick, scoring at 14:46 of the second period.

Sikio tied the game from her knees, sliding the puck between Ruddock's leg and the right post at 17:84.

Harvard star defense man, junior Angela Ruggiero, received an interference penalty at 15:05 of the third period. She vocally contested the call, and a 10-minute misconduct was added. The USA National Team player spent the rest of the period, and much of the first overtime, in the penalty box.

She darted out of the box and onto the ice quickly when her sentence was filled and gestured to the crowd that she was fired up.

Neither team scored in the third period. Just 30 seconds into the second overtime, Botterill and freshman forward Julie Chu closed in on Sautter. The UMD goalie grabbed the puck and Chu tried to shake it from her grasp. It broke free and slid to the back of the net, but after the whistle. Referees reviewed the play and did not allow the goal.

Tallus closed the game minutes later, after hearing a prediction from UMD junior forward Tricia Guest.

"Before the overtime, I said, 'My money is on you,'" Guest said she told Tallus. Guest might be clairvoyant, based on her own success. She scored the game-winner last year, when the Bulldogs beat Brown 3-2 in the championship game. "I just had a feeling. It's never been like the superstar person" who scores winning goals in title games for UMD.

After the game, Guest went up to Tallus, one of her closest friends on the team, and said, "It's an amazing feeling, isn't it?"

[From the Duluth News Tribune, Mar. 24, 2003]

AN AMAZING JOURNEY ENDS WITH AN AMAZING GAME

(By Mark Emmert)

Four years ago, Erika Holst, Maria Rooth and Hanne Sikio were just looking for somewhere to play hockey.

Each received a phone call from Shannon Miller, wondering if they'd be interested in attending the University of Minnesota Duluth, which was beginning a varsity program.

The trio of Scandinavians knew nothing about Duluth or U.S. college hockey, but they knew enough about Miller, the former coach of the Canadian Olympic team, to take a gamble.

On Sunday night at the DECC, their glorious careers culminated with a victory in the greatest college women's hockey game ever played. The double-overtime 4-3 defeat of Harvard, played before a raucous and appreciative NCAA Women's Frozen Four-record crowd of 5,167, gave UMD its third consecutive national championship.

Holst and Rooth, from Sweden, and Sikio, from Finland, have been the backbone of the dynasty. After the most grueling game of their career, each said their four years in Duluth have been magical, but none were quite ready to accept that they're over.

"It really hit me when we played Bemidji and we had senior night," Holst said of her final regular-season game at the DECC on Feb. 23. "Then I tried to park it. When I do decide to think about it, it's going to be a toughy."

Miller had instructed her initial senior class—which also includes Jenny Hempel, Joanne Eustace, Navada Russell and Michelle McAteer—not to think about the impending end of their careers. The subject was too emotional, she said, and would only distract from the team's preparations to defend its title.

On Sunday, Miller said, "They're an incredible group, as people and as talented players. You can't replace these people."

The Scandinavian players each said they felt an immediate bond to Duluth and its people, easing their worries about missing their families back home.

"I fit in right away," said Rooth, UMD's career scoring leader with 231 points. "Everyone here seems to care for us."

"I really liked the lake," Sikio said of her first glimpse of her new hometown. "Minnesota is a lot like Finland. But the language was hard to understand. People here, they speak pretty fast and we were like, 'Slow down.'"

Sikio had two goals Sunday in perhaps her finest game as a Bulldog. Like her classmates, she hopes to continue playing hockey somewhere, perhaps in Canada, but she does intend to come back to UMD in the fall to finish earning her international studies degree.

"I was really surprised by how many Scandinavians are here, and the people are so nice," said Holst, whose only frustration in Duluth was not being able to find Swedish meatballs as good as the ones she was used to. "They just don't taste the same over here," she lamented.

Rooth's parents were at the DECC on Sunday to witness their daughter's final game. So was Holst's father.

"He was really happy and proud," Holst said of her postgame embrace with her father. "He doesn't usually show his emotions too much."

"They were more nervous than anyone else," Rooth said of her parents, who were wearing Swedish national jerseys with her name and number on them.

Holst, Rooth and Sikio's final collegiate game may become the one that people point to years from now as the impetus for a burst in popularity for women's hockey, much as the 1958 NFL title game, in which the Baltimore Colts registered a dramatic overtime victory over the New York Giants, put pro football on a new plane in this country.

Harvard coach Katey Stone, gracious in defeat, hinted as much, calling Sunday's game, broadcast nationally on cable TV, "one of the greatest sporting events I've been a part of."

"It was a tremendous tribute to how hard these student-athletes work and what a great product they can provide for the fans," she said.

It certainly was.

And, even if UMD's Nordic trio aren't around to benefit from a higher profile for women's hockey in America, Sunday's game certainly validates their blind decision of four years ago, when they hopped on a plane and helped make sports history at a small university in a small city they'd never heard of but were bound to become embraced by.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to point out, while we are discussing these great achievements on the ice, that the University of Minnesota, Duluth women's and men's theater troupe has five times in the last 17 years won national honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for performances at the collegiate level. Under the masterful leadership of Chancellor Kathryn Martin, we have a very well-rounded academic program at the University of Minnesota Duluth which includes academics, the arts, as well as athletics.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that we take this time here today to salute the women of the University of Minnesota, Duluth NCAA championship hockey team and all of those who participate in collegiate athletics.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs, the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Champions. I thank the Gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR, for allowing the House this opportunity to congratulate and recognize the Bulldogs on winning their third straight championship. During the championship game against Harvard University, the Bulldogs showed tremendous strength and ability, going into double overtime, finally winning with a score of 4-3. This season, they won an impressive 31 games, while only losing 3 and tying 2. And as we prepare to celebrate the upcoming thirty-first anniversary of Title IX, this team serves to be a prime example that Title IX is working. And since it is working, to weaken or water down Title IX in any way would be detrimental to the future of events like these and to teams like the Bulldogs.

I happen to be one who believes that there ought to be absolute equality in all endeavors

in all walks of life. I am amazed, as a matter of fact, sometimes when I recall even the Preamble to our Constitution, when we say, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,"; and at the same time, we left out women. Some people would suggest that when they said "men" they meant women as well, but I am not always sure of that.

As a matter of fact, we can look at what the experiences have been. Even though we have Title IX, only 42 percent of college athletes are female and female athletes receive \$133 million fewer scholarship dollars per year than their male counterparts. This proves that, if anything, Title IX needs to be strengthened as we still face inequities in athletics today.

We have to keep Title IX alive; we have to make sure that it is strong; and we have to keep working so that there is in fact equality across the board without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, or any other form of origin.

America is a great Nation. We have made lots of progress and we have come a long way, but we still have much further to go. I do not believe we will ever get where we need to be unless we reinforce all of those processes that we have used to get us where we are. Keeping Title IX will continue the successes that we have seen with teams like the Bulldogs and with other athletic teams in the future.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 171, commending the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team for winning the NCAA 2003 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship. I also want to congratulate Bulldogs Coach Shannon Miller on being named the 2003 American Hockey Coaches Association Women's University Division Coach of the Year. We are all proud of the extraordinary accomplishments of these women.

The March 23 triumph of the UMD Bulldogs over Harvard has been referred to as the greatest game in the history of college women's hockey. Played before a record-breaking crowd of over 5,000, the double-overtime 4 to 3 defeat of Harvard gave the Bulldogs their third consecutive national championship. In only the fourth season of their existence, the Bulldogs have brought the sport of women's hockey to a new and exciting level.

The success that this team has achieved over the past few years has helped to fuel a women's hockey explosion in Minnesota and across the country. Twenty-nine colleges now sponsor Division I teams, and the NCAA is considering expanding its field in 2005. In Minnesota, the number of high school women's hockey teams has rocketed from 24 in 1995 to 128 today. Nationwide, the number of girls and women playing ice hockey has increased more than four-fold in the last decade, with more than 39,000 registered females playing today.

The success of the Bulldogs and the ever-growing opportunities for women in sports remind us of the importance of Title IX—the landmark legislation that banned sex discrimination in schools. Over the past 30 years, Title IX has kicked open the door for women and girls in athletics and education. Since the passage of Title IX, girls have gone from hoping for a team to hoping to make the team.

Unfortunately, there are some who would like to turn back the clock and see this law weakened. But as women continue to make

strides toward equal opportunity, Title IX must remain strong. We must uphold the progress that we have made and continue to expand opportunities for our daughters, granddaughters and generations beyond. Every girl must be given the chance to one day become a national champion.

Once again, I congratulate the UMB Bulldogs on their achievements.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 171.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ACCOUNTANT, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT STAFFING ACT OF 2003

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 658) to provide for the protection of investors, increase confidence in the capital markets system, and fully implement the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2003 by streamlining the hiring process for certain employment positions in the Securities and Exchange Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 658

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Accountant, Compliance, and Enforcement Staffing Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS, ECONOMISTS, AND EXAMINERS BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 3114. Appointment of accountants, economists, and examiners by the Securities and Exchange Commission

"(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies with respect to any position of accountant, economist, and securities compliance examiner at the Commission that is in the competitive service.

"(b) APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may appoint candidates to any position described in subsection (a)—

"(A) in accordance with the statutes, rules, and regulations governing appointments in the excepted service; and

"(B) notwithstanding any statutes, rules, and regulations governing appointments in the competitive service.

"(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The appointment of a candidate to a position under authority of this subsection shall not be considered to cause such position to be converted from the competitive service to the excepted service.

"(c) REPORTS.—No later than 90 days after the end of fiscal year 2003 (for fiscal year 2003) and 90 days after the end of fiscal year 2005 (for fiscal years 2004 and 2005), the Commission shall submit a report with respect to its exercise of the authority granted by subsection (b) during such fiscal years to the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate. Such reports shall describe the changes in the hiring process authorized by such subsection, including relevant information related to—

"(1) the quality of candidates;

"(2) the procedures used by the Commission to select candidates through the streamlined hiring process;

"(3) the numbers, types, and grades of employees hired under the authority;

"(4) any benefits or shortcomings associated with the use of the authority;

"(5) the effect of the exercise of the authority on the hiring of veterans and other demographic groups; and

"(6) the way in which managers were trained in the administration of the streamlined hiring system.

"(d) COMMISSION DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'Commission' means the Securities and Exchange Commission."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3113 the following:

"3114. Appointment of accountants, economists, and examiners by the Securities and Exchange Commission."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is not long ago that the revolutions of corporate misgovernance became apparent to not only those within the corporate world, but to investors around the country. The resulting consequences led many hard-working families who had planned on retirements to reconsider those plans, as the value of the 401(k)s and pensions and savings plans eroded, literally overnight.

In addition to those concerns, it was revealed to the American people that there were corporate executives who